

June 7, 2007

Elected officials of the United States Senate,

I have recently learned through my company, U.S. Cellular®, that you are debating to put a cap on the Universal Service Fund. In a way I can understand your concern for this fee, but unless you are from a small town, I feel you do not realize the impact of the decision you might make.

The USF fee is not really understood by anyone that pays it...most of our customers just pay their bill with out trying to find out what exactly each charge means. But if customers were told what this fee does, I am positive that customers would be willing to pay a dollar or so a month on their cellular bill, if they knew the benefits.

What are the benefits you ask? If you live or travel in rural Iowa, you would want your cell phone to work in case you had an accident, you experience car troubles, or you are lost on a county road. With the USF as it currently is, U.S. Cellular® is able to guarantee that your phone will be there for you when you need it most. The fee allows my company to put up very expensive but very needed cell towers in even the most remote places of Iowa.

Now if a cap is placed on the USF found, we may not be able to guarantee that need. The USF allows us to ensure every customer is allowed to make a call no matter where they live or travel, and with this cap, our company will be limited to where we place towers, and those that will be affected the most, is our rural customers (which in Iowa, especially around Fort Dodge) this will affect many communities, not to mention farmers.

So I ask you to make a decision....do you want to be responsible for the young family stranded on county road N28 with no service...or do you want to make sure that all citizens have a fair opportunity to make a call, no matter if they live in the city or live on a farm in northwest Iowa. I plead that you decide for the rural customer.